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wherein the analog video signals and digital data travel through the same crosspoint switch at the same time. - -

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment addresses issues raised by the Examiner in an Office Action dated April 13, 2000. In the Office Action, the Examiner (1) allowed claims 10-13; (2) rejected claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Goolcharan (U.S. Patent No. 5,283,638); (3) rejected claim 6 as being unpatentable over Georger (U.S. Patent No. 5,363,068); and (4) rejected claims 7-9 as being unpatentable over Bordy et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,130,793) in view of Foglia (U.S. Patent No. 4,885,747).

Applicant has canceled claims 6 and 14 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof, amended claims 8 and 9, and added new claims 15-26 to more appropriately define the invention. Claims 7-13, and 15-26 are pending in the application.

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for allowing claims 10-13.

In the Office Action, the Examiner relied on four references: Bordry et al., Foglia, Georger, and Goolcharan.

Bordry et al. discloses a transmission line that is formed by a bundle of twisted pairs having connection points at which there is either a unit for injecting a signal on to at least one of the twisted pairs, a unit for tapping the signal on at least one of the twisted pairs, and a control unit. In the system disclosed, a transmission unit transmits a signal to a module that places the signal onto one of the twisted pairs in the bundle. A

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reception unit can then receive the signal via a module that taps the twisted pair carrying the signal. These modules contain switching matrices which are used to transmit a signal on a particular twisted pair to transmit a signal and tap the appropriate twisted pair in order to receive a signal. As such, the bundle of twisted pairs acts as a bus that interconnects the various modules. These modules are connected to end units that act as a control unit to transmit or receive useful signals (i.e., not control signals). Accordingly, the bundle of twisted pairs does not connect a user interface to a hub, but rather simply acts as a bus that interconnects end units by way of modules.

Foglia is directed to a method and system for transmitting basedband and broadband signals simultaneously. In the system, various data terminal equipment is connected to a wiring closet via twisted pair cable.

Georger is directed to an apparatus for transmitting a plurality of non-synchronized video channels, over separate twisted wire pairs included in a single cable sheath.

Goolcharan is directed to a system for transmitting full motion color video, voice and data over a communications link formed of a twisted pair of wires. Further, Goolcharan discloses multiplexing a plurality of different video, telephone and data signals together for transmission over the same twisted pair link.

Applicant's new claim 15 recites, in part,
combining a first analog video signal and a first digital data signal to create a first combined signal;
converting the first combined signal from common mode to differential mode;
transmitting the first combined signal and first digital data signal upstream on a first pair of wires in a twisted pair cable;

None of the prior art reference cited by the Examiner whether taken alone or in combination teach or suggest combining a first analog video signal and a first digital data signal and converting this combined signal from common mode to differential mode prior to transmitting the combined signal over a first pair of wires in a twisted pair of wires.

In fact, none of these references discusses converting a signal from common mode to differential mode prior to transmission, let alone combining an analog video signal and digital data signal and converting this combined signal from common mode to differential mode.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that new claim 15 is allowable over the references cited by the Examiner. Applicant further submits that claims 8-9, and 16-26 that depend directly or indirectly on independent claim 15 are likewise in condition for allowance at least by reason of such dependence.

In addition to the above-stated reasons, Applicant respectfully submits dependent claim 16 is also allowable for at least the reason that none of the references cited by the Examiner, whether taken alone or in combination, teach or suggest transmitting a combined signal that includes an analog video signal and a digital data signal upstream on a first pair of wires in a twisted pair cable, and transmitting a high speed digital data signal on a third pair of wires in the same twisted pair cable.

With regard to dependent claim 19, in addition to the above-stated reasons, Applicant would like to further point out that none of the references cited by the Examiner, whether taken alone or in combination, teach or suggest using a frequency

coupler to combine an analog video signal and a digital data signal and transmitting the combined signal over a twisted pair of wires, as recited in dependent claim 19.

Applicant further submits, that for the same reasons as discussed above with reference to new claim 15, new independent claim 20 is likewise allowable. Further, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claims 21-23 that depend directly or indirectly on independent claim 20 are likewise allowable, at least due to their dependence on claim 20.

Applicant also respectfully submits that new system claims 24-26 are allowable for the same reasons as claims 10-13 that were previously allowed by the Examiner.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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